

# Calendar No. 411

89TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session }

SENATE }

REPORT  
No. 425

## EXTEND TIME FOR WHEAT REFERENDUM

JULY 7, 1965.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 9497]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 9497), to extend the time for conducting the referendum with respect to the national marketing quota for wheat for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1966, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

This bill would extend from August 1, 1965, until 30 days after adjournment sine die of the 1st session of the 89th Congress the time within which the Secretary of Agriculture is required by law to conduct a marketing quota referendum with respect to the 1966 crop of wheat.

The Agricultural Act of 1964 provided for voluntary wheat marketing certificate programs in 1964 and 1965. In the absence of further legislation the law providing for mandatory marketing quotas will be applicable to the 1966 crop, and marketing quotas for that crop have been proclaimed and must be submitted to a producer referendum not later than August 1, 1965. However, both the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry of the Senate and the House Committee on Agriculture are actively considering bills providing for voluntary programs, and passage of any of these bills would make the referendum unnecessary. Passage of the bill could therefore result in avoidance of an unnecessary referendum, the costs attendant thereto, and the confusion which might well result therefrom.

Following is the letter from the Under Secretary of Agriculture recommending the enactment of this bill:

JUNE 30, 1965.

Hon. HAROLD D. COOLEY,  
*Chairman, House Agriculture Committee.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your telephonic request of this afternoon for a report on H.R. 9497, a bill to extend the time for conducting the referendum with respect to the national

marketing quota for wheat for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1966.

H.R. 9497 would extend the time for conducting the referendum with respect to the national marketing quota for wheat for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1966, from not later than August 1, as specified under existing law, to not later than 30 days after adjournment sine die of the 1st session of the 89th Congress.

Unless the date for the referendum for the 1966 wheat crop is extended, the Secretary of Agriculture has no alternative but to establish a referendum date and do so within the next few days. In addition to setting a date for the referendum, the Secretary would be obligated to take a number of other actions associated with conducting the referendum. These would include issuing instructions, establishment of polling places, printing of ballots, mailings to farmers, etc. Such action would obviously result in considerable expense that will be avoided by the passage of H.R. 9497. In addition, prompt passage will avoid a great amount of misunderstanding and confusion among farmers, farm related businesses, and the general public.

Action on H.R. 9497 will in no way impede or interfere with the deliberations of the Congress with respect to new wheat legislation. Instead, it gives the Congress the opportunity of holding careful deliberations on new wheat legislation.

If new legislation is enacted, it would, in all probability, negate the need for holding the referendum for the 1966 crop.

On the other hand, if no new legislation is adopted, the referendum would be held within 30 days after the adjournment sine die of this session of the 89th Congress.

In light of the above, we urge prompt and favorable action.

In view of the lack of time involved in complying with your request for this report, this report has not been cleared with the Bureau of the Budget.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. SCHNITTKER, *Under Secretary.*

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in *italic*, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

#### AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1938, AS AMENDED

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#### REFERENDUM

SEC. 336. If a national marketing quota for wheat for one, two, or three marketing years is proclaimed, the Secretary shall, not later than August 1 of the calendar year in which such national marketing quota is proclaimed, conduct a referendum, by secret ballot, of farmers to determine whether they favor or oppose marketing quotas for the marketing year or years for which proclaimed. Any producer who has a farm acreage allotment shall be eligible to vote in any referendum held pur-

suant to this section, except that a producer who has a farm acreage allotment of less than fifteen acres shall not be eligible to vote unless the farm operator elected pursuant to section 335 to be subject to the farm marketing quota. The Secretary shall proclaim the results of any referendum held hereunder within thirty days after the date of such referendum, and if the Secretary determines that more than one-third of the farmers voting in the referendum voted against marketing quotas, the Secretary shall proclaim that marketing quotas will not be in effect with respect to the crop of wheat produced for harvest in the calendar year following the calendar year in which the referendum is held. If the Secretary determines that two-thirds or more of the farmers voting in a referendum approve marketing quotas for a period of two or three marketing years, no referendum shall be held for the subsequent year or years of such period. *Notwithstanding any other provision hereof the referendum with respect to the national marketing quota for wheat for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1966, may be conducted not later than thirty days after adjournment sine die of the first session of the Eighty-ninth Congress.*



